payment the contractor will be reimbursed only to the extent admissible in terms of the contract on the basis of the accepted after and other conditions of the contract.

Vacancy of Medical Superintendent in CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Aliganj

333. SHRI GANDHI AZAD:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Lala Ram Swaroop T.B. Hospital in OPD Block Banane ke Nirdesh", which appeared in the Nav Bharat Times, dated 17th November, 2001;

(b) whether he visited CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital at Aliganj, New Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) since when the post of Medical Superintendent in lying vacant; and

(e) by when Government propose to appoint a regular Medical Superintendent in the above said hospital alongwith his/her name as promised by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited the Hospital on 16th November, 2001. He inspected all the Sections of the Hospital.

(d) The post of Medical Superintendent has been lying vacant since 1.1.1998.

(e) Efforts were made to fill up the post but no one was found suitable by the UPSC. The post has again been circulated and interview will be conducted by the UPSC for selection at the earliest.

AIDS virus in Delhi

334. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Ministry of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is affected by AIDS virus;

(b) if so, the number of affected people in Delhi;

(c) whether Government are aware that a majority of those found having AIDS were from the elite or the affluent section and HIV prevalence rate among general population was 0.25 per cent; and

(d) the percentage of TB prevalence among general population in Delhi and which—TB or AIDS, should get priority to control the measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 656 AIDS cases are reported as on 31st January, 2002 in Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir. The HIV prevalence rate in pregnant women attending ante-natal clinics in Delhi was detected to be 0.25 per cent during the recently conducted sentinel surveillance round. However, the reported AIDS cases belong to all segments of society.

(d) About 170 per lakh TB cases are reported to the Government system. There is a strong association between TB and HIV infection. TB is one of the most important opportunistic infections in the HIV infected persons. While there is no cure for HIV/AIDS, TB can be cured completely in HIV infected persons by providing full course of anti-tubercular treatment. Therefore both TB and HIV/AIDS should get priority in prevention and control measures.

Privatisation of Safdarjung Hospital

335. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to privatise a pioneer institution, namely Safdarjung Hospital which is the only institution for getting medical treatment for poor and depressed families;

(b) if so, the compelling reasons for doing so;

(c) what are Government's plans to make available treatment for the poor and depressed families in these hard days; and

(d) the circumstances under which the monthly payment of patient care allowance in toto was denied to the employees of Safdarjung Hospital?